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**Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics**

Area Unique Identifier **CO-S05000-008 Lower Tabeguache/Campbell Creek**  
 Acreage **11,060 acres**

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes   X   No           

**Description:**

This unit is located between Uravan and the Tabeguache Area in western Montrose County. It includes Long Mesa and Burro Creek Mesa, as well as parts of Wild Cow and Spring Creek mesas. The mesas are drained by Spring Creek and Campbell Creek, which drain to the southwest into Tabeguache Creek in the southern part of the unit.

The unit is bounded on the northwest by Spring Creek Truck Trail (road), on the southwest by county road U 19, on the south by private land and roads above the southern rim of Tabeguache Creek, and on the east by county road Z 26 and private land.

One private inholding in Tabeguache Creek near the confluence with Campbell Creek and one private inholding on Burro Creek Mesa have been cherry-stemmed out of the unit. One water pipeline in the northern part of the unit in Spring Creek and one stock pond near the southern part of Spring Creek have also been cherry-stemmed out of the unit.

There are a few old, constructed vehicle routes in the unit, but they are not being maintained, and have for the most part become impassable to full-size vehicles, and do not meet the criteria for being wilderness inventory roads.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes   X   No            N/A           

**Description:**

This unit is entirely on BLM lands. There are two 160 acre inholdings that are cherry-stemmed out of the unit. Both have small structures, roads and developments that are visible from parts of the unit that are close-by.

There is an old, non-functioning landing strip that crosses Spring Creek Truck Trail into the unit. It is only apparent when in its immediate vicinity. Along Spring Creek Truck Trail within the unit near the landing strip are several excavations and mounds of dirt, presumably from Uranium exploration activity several decades ago. Between the southwest tip of Long Mesa and Tabeguache Creek there is a network of old mining routes that are currently used by ATVs. These routes are obvious from the end of Long Mesa and parts of the south rim of Tabeguache Creek.

There are two old constructed routes entering the unit from the eastern boundary. One runs down Long Mesa and the other runs down Wild Cow Mesa. Both terminate at the edges of the mesas, above Tabeguache Creek. Neither is being maintained, and both have become primarily ATV routes.

There are a few check dams/stock ponds at various levels of functionality in the shallow basin to the east of the private inholding on Burro Creek Mesa. They are likely maintained with vehicle access. Minimum maintenance of routes would likely be allowed for maintenance purposes.

The mesa tops are largely open grasslands and sagebrush/winterfat shrublands. The slopes on the sides of the mesas and along the canyons that drain the mesas are rocky/ledgy and dominated by piñon-juniper forest. Canyon bottoms support piñon-juniper in some of the drier reaches, but generally support riparian vegetation (willow, cottonwood and oak). Tabeguache Creek supports cottonwood galleries.

Most of the current human use of the area appears to consist of activities related to livestock grazing. A few stock ponds and spring developments are scattered across the unit, but they are not dominant features, and are small in size. There is evidence of decades-old mining activity along Spring Creek Truck Trail and below the southwest tip of Long Mesa. These isolated areas lack naturalness. Otherwise, the unit appears to be natural in appearance and influenced very little by the activities of humans.

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description: The area appears to have very low visitation. Aside livestock grazing operations, there is little sign of people getting off of boundary roads and into the unit. Except when close to one of the private inholdings, a visitor would experience outstanding opportunities for solitude (freedom from the sights and sounds of other people) throughout most of this unit.

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation): Aside from the boundary roads and a few unmaintained ATV routes the access to this unit is only by non-motorized and non-mechanized means. There are no recreation developments, and no special restrictions on recreation.

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No   X  

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

**Summary of Analysis\***

\* This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

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**Summary**

Results of analysis:

(Note: explain the inventory findings for the entirety of the inventory unit. When wilderness characteristics have been identified in an area that is smaller than the size of the total inventory unit, explain why certain portions of the inventory unit are not included within the lands with wilderness characteristics (e.g. the inventory found that certain parts lacked naturalness).

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☒ Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☒ Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☒ Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ N/A

Check one:

☒ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

The acreage of lands with wilderness characteristics within the unit is 11,060.

☐ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

**Prepared by (team members):**

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**Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):**

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Date: 4-3-15